

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Thursday, December 10, 2015

1. Call to order: Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Members present include Cliff, Ed Newman, Richard Linscott, Mat Roberts, Elaine Goetz, and Meredith Price-Mullins. Jennifer Cochran was absent. Guests include Bruce Underwood from the Athens Hocking Recycling Center.

2. Disposition of Minutes: The minutes from November 2015 were reviewed by the commission. Ed motioned to approve the minutes, Mat seconded the motion. All voted in favor to accept the minutes.

3. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 5:30 PM.

4. New Business

A. Bruce Underwood—Athens Hocking Recycling Center. Bruce introduced himself to the commission and gave an update on changes at the center. Clients can still sort if they choose. Plastic bags should be loose in the stream. Bruce said drier is better with cardboard and paper. MRF is designed for about 12 persons to operate and can handle 7 tons per hour. 3825 tons recycled in 2014 (3350 in 2013). They have exceeded that in 3rd quarter in 2015. They have expanded into more remote areas of the district this year. AHR has doubled curbside collection in areas outside Athens city this year. They are working with smaller waste hauling businesses as well. They expect to exceed 4KT this year. Plastic pop bottle caps do not need to be separated anymore. Hangers are drop off materials. Drop off materials will be accepted on a regular basis. The RT 13 site will be converted into a CHARM and accept mattresses and other hard to recycle materials. Scales have been added to all trucks to capture more accurate data.

Organic program is starting within the city as well. They are providing options for users to use curbside or drop-off system. This is an optional program for district residents. They are also working with local businesses.

8000 tons went to landfill in 2014.

5. Old Business

A. Sustainability Plan—the commission tabled this discussion until 2016.

6. Updates

Cliff reported that Erin Sykes from the Rural Action Zero Waste team will present at the January meeting.

6. Adjournment

Mat motioned to adjourn. Meredith seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting ended at 7:10 PM.